

SOCIAL STUDIES

LOWER SCHOOL

The Lower School Social Studies curriculum is designed to introduce skills and foster an understanding of the basic foundation skills of social studies: geography, history, sociology, anthropology, economics, and political science. The first-year curriculum is centered on learning about neighborhoods and cities, and on exploration and discovery. The second year focuses on communities, and students study the Alaskan Eskimo and Australian Aborigine in depth. Third-grade students study the uses and conservation of natural resources and participate in projects related to conservation of natural resources. The fourth grade uses a humanities curriculum that focuses on Texas; the boys study the history and geography of our state and its people. Appropriate map skills are taught in grades one through four.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School Humanities curriculum is designed to help the student to achieve a global appreciation of man and society, to allow the student to participate in a program that is both multi-cultural and interdisciplinary, to encourage the student to develop a mentor relationship with a faculty member at each respective grade level, and to equip the student with reading, writing, research, and critical thinking skills. The curriculum offers a series of perspectives from which the student can approach the diversity of human experience. Each year's study will focus on a set of themes which will allow the student to make connections across cultures, time periods, and academic disciplines in order to broaden his understanding of what it means to be human.

UPPER SCHOOL

The Upper School Social Studies curriculum is a combination of required core courses and electives. The core courses

are designed to help students gain an understanding of and an appreciation for their cultural heritage, and to develop a sense of historical perspective in a confusing and rapidly changing world. The courses continue to emphasize and build upon the skills and concepts introduced in the Middle School curriculum.

The elective courses offered at the eleventh and twelfth grades afford students the opportunity to pursue their individual interests. Enrollment in Advanced Placement sections is limited to those students who demonstrate the capacity for advanced work by their willingness to participate in high-level class discussions, their independence of thought, and their excellence of achievement in the study of history. AP courses require work that is both broader and deeper than that of regular courses.

Typically, students take Ancient and Medieval History and Religion in grade 9 or 10, take Western Civilization in grade 10 or 11, and take U.S. History in grade 11 or 12.

HUMANITIES 5: A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE (105) GRADE 5

Full Year

The course focuses on the relationship of people to their nation, with emphasis on the history and geography of the United States from the earliest times to the present. It poses the question: Who are we as Americans, as citizens of the United States? Students pursue this inquiry through fiction and non-fiction readings about people of many cultures. Extensive instruction in vocabulary, grammar, writing, reading, and critical thinking skills complement the thematic studies.

HUMANITIES 6: A WORLD PERSPECTIVE (106) GRADE 6
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Full Year

By examining a variety of foreign cultures from a number of perspectives,

this course seeks to develop in its students a world view. Through a comparative study of the political, religious, economic, historic, and cultural forces at work in six regions of the globe, the course explores the similarities and differences in the ways that people make homes for themselves. Students look at six cultural regions: Russia and Eastern Europe, China, India, the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa. To learn about these regions, students study not just maps and textbooks, but also the music, art, literature, customs, and mores of these cultures.

Ideally, students should emerge from the course not only with a thorough appreciation of cultures different from their own, but also with the intellectual tools needed to make sense of any culture. Each student is asked to remain open-minded, to appreciate cultures on their own terms rather than judge them from his own cultural perspective. In addition, the course is designed to give students an understanding of the influences of geography, history, economics, demographics, and religion on present-day conditions. The course also includes extensive instruction in reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar. Daily writing assignments and periodic literary explorations play a significant role in the students cultural studies.

HUMANITIES 7: A MYTHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE (107) GRADE 7

Full Year

Mythological themes such as Beginnings, Coming of Age, Heroes, and The Search for Paradise (Endings) inspire the units in this course. Students explore these themes by reading a variety of myths, literary works, and nonfiction and by relating these universal themes to their own lives and to life in today's world. The goal is to achieve better understanding of man and his place in the world including the student's own place as a citizen of his city and state. Intertwined with the study of mythological themes is the study of Texas and Dallas, their history, geography,

government, and multi-cultural heritage.

During the year the students complete several research projects designed to introduce the students to effective research techniques including the use of the latest technology available. *Time* magazine provides a resource for these projects and for the study of related current events. The course emphasizes critical thinking, and expository and creative writing assignments help students improve their expressive capabilities. Study skills, organization, and time management are taught, and strong emphasis is placed upon enrichment of vocabulary and instruction in grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

HUMANITIES 8: A MORAL PERSPECTIVE (108) GRADE 8

Full Year

This course explores questions especially pertinent to young people as they think seriously about themselves and the world in which they live. The four questions central to the course are: What is a good society? What makes a good leader? What is worth fighting for? What makes a good person? Students explore these questions through texts such as *Lord of the Flies*, *Richard III*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Power of One*, and *Huckleberry Finn*. How these questions appear in the contemporary world is pursued through the use of *Time* magazine, newspapers, and videos.

The course also aims to make young men better writers and better readers. Students work to improve their proficiency by writing both analytical compositions and creative stories. Students improve their reading and thinking skills by learning to support their ideas both in class discussions and in written essays.

ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY & RELIGION (509) GRADES 9-10

Full Year

This course covers the political, social, religious, and cultural development of

Western man from prehistoric times to the Crusades. The various traditions which form Western religious and philosophical thought are given particular emphasis. Units on India, China, and Africa are also included in the course. Typical texts are *A History of World Societies*, *Antigone*, and *Gilgamesh*.

THE MODERN WORLD (510) GRADES 10-11

Full Year

This is a survey of World History from the Crusades to the present. Emphasis is on the development of Western institutions and arts, and on Western/non-Western relationships. The texts include *World History: The Human Odyssey*, *History of World Societies*, *Creative Impulse*, and *Night*.

U.S. HISTORY & GOVERNMENT (511) GRADES 11-12

Full Year

This course covers American History, emphasizing political, social, and diplomatic developments, especially those of the twentieth century. The texts include *The American Pageant*, and *Historical Viewpoints, v.I & II*.

AP WORLD HISTORY (513) GRADES 11-12

Full Year

AP World History will focus on the past one thousand years of human experience and the evolution of global processes, of cultural and political institutions, and of human societies. Designed to prepare students for the first AP World History exam (Spring 2002), the course will examine the six major themes: (1) the interaction among major societies; (2) the relationship of change to continuity; (3) the impact of technology and demography; (4) the social and gender structures of societies; (5) cultural and intellectual developments; and (6) changing political cultures and types of political organizations.

A seminar format will be employed. Grades will be based on contributions to class discussions, oral and visual presentations, and written essays. The textbook will be chosen as the AP Board publishes more course information. Readings from supplementary history books and primary sources will be required. **Limitations:** Department Chair approval required.

WWI & THE INTERWAR PERIOD (514) GRADES 10-11

1 Trimester: 1st only

A tragic and fairly comprehensive study of the Great War and the ensuing world wide depression. Discussions and arguments abound in our examination of nationalism, aerial warfare, military tactics, racism, and economic volatility between 1900 and 1933. This course will examine the first of three pivotal events in the Twentieth Century in an effort to understand the world and our lives more clearly. Papers, one regarding a work of literature and another regarding independent research, make up an important element of the class. Typical texts include John Keegan's *The First World War* and Henri Barbusse's *Under Fire*.

WWII & THE HOLOCAUST (515) GRADES 10-11

1 Trimester: 2nd only

This class covers social, political, diplomatic, and military history during the Second World War. Class discussions cover the fates of men on the front lines, women in factories, and children in concentration camps as they struggle with nationalism, racism, ideological conflict, and life's daily struggles.

THE COLD WAR (516) GRADES 10-11

1 Trimester: 3rd only

This class offers a global perspective on events between World War II and the destruction of the Berlin Wall. Our entry into the atomic age, wars of national liberation, power politics, cultural revolutions,

and ideological struggles dominate the class discussions. This third class on pivotal events in the Twentieth Century will focus upon the Vietnam War. Independent research projects and class discussions make up the largest portions of student evaluation. Typical texts include *America, Russian, and the Cold War* by Walter Lafeber and *America's Longest War* by George C. Herring.

AP U.S. HISTORY
(522) GRADES 11-12

Full Year

This course will cover the full span of American History from the colonial beginnings to the 21st Century. It will prepare students for the A.P. exam given in May. Extensive readings from primary and secondary sources will supplement the basic textbook, and students will be evaluated by means of a variety of essay assignments and short answer tests. Political, economic, social, cultural, military, and domestic aspects of American History will be examined in depth. **Limitations:** Department Chair approval required.

SENIOR HUMANITIES
(123) GRADE 12

Full year

Senior Humanities meets the requirements both of AP English and of AP European History. (See the separate department descriptions of these courses in their respective departments.) The literature used in the course will reflect the time period and content of the historical era being discussed. Students will be expected to take both the AP English and AP European History exams. The texts include *Palmer-Colton, A History of the Modern World, Hamlet, Don Quixote, Tartuffe, The Prince, Emile, Classics of Philosophy Vol. II, Heart of Darkness, A Doll's House, An Enemy of the People, Doctor Zhivago, and The Tin Drum.* **Limitations:** Approval of the Department Chairs of both English and History required; by application only.

LAW & AP GOVERNMENT
(571) GRADES 11-12

Full Year

The law portion of this course provides an introduction to the American court system and the judicial process. Landmark rulings from cases argued before the US Supreme Court are used to study the evolution of the Bill of Rights, focusing on the First Amendment and criminal procedure amendments. A significant portion of class time will be devoted to student directed moot court proceedings.

The government and politics segment of this course entails a study of significant topics in US politics, including the Constitution, the influence of political parties, and the roles of money and media in politics.

The texts include *The Brethren, Cases in Constitutional Law; The Bill of Rights Reader; and Government by the People.*

AP EUROPEAN HISTORY
(512) GRADE 12

Full Year

AP European History is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in European History. Students are prepared for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those of full-year introductory college courses. A seminar format is used, and students are expected to contribute to class discussions, prepare oral reports based on sound historical scholarship, and present substantive evidence clearly and persuasively in written essays. The texts include *A History of the Modern World*, and other primary sources. Summer reading: *Ten Days that Shook the World* and *Back to the Front.* **Limitations:** Department Chair approval required; enrollment is limited.

WORLD LITERATURE I: FAR AWAY PLACES
(141) GRADES 11-12

1 Trimester

This course focuses on literature from Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, Africa, and the South Pacific. Its purpose is to expose students to non-Western cultures and writers. Although novels, plays, and poetry are the primary materials, class discussions extend beyond purely literary concerns. The format includes student-led discussions, lectures, films, and class excursions. Students read and write essays on seven to eight literary works. Participants earn credit for English or Social Studies.

WORLD LITERATURE II: FAR OUT TRAVEL
(142) GRADES 11-12

1 Trimester

Travel narratives contain a wealth of culture, geography, and reflections on the human condition. They are filled with romantic derring-do, unadulterated characters, and wondrous suspense at each bend of the road. The tales resound with first-hand awe and disbelief. Writers have been recounting their wandering since the age of *The Odyssey* and *The Travels of Marco Polo*. Despite varying the means of travel from camels and bicycles, to trains, boats, and one's own feet travelers often have the same goal in mind: to discover humanity in all its exotic forms. This course entails reading travel books, writing critically about them, and doing our own bit of peregrinations. The Greek poet Cavafy said, "When you start on the journey to Ithaki, pray that the road will be a long one, full of adventure, full of things to learn." This course is a sedentary journey to such a land.

AP PRINCIPALS OF ECONOMICS (541) GRADES 11-12

Full Year

This advanced level course features an in-depth examination of both microeconomic and macroeconomic principles and their applications. Emphasis is placed on price theory, the firm, different market structures, income and employment determination, money and banking, and international trade and finance. The course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement Examinations in Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. The text is *Economics Today*.

Limitations: Department Chair approval required.

ETHICS I (553) GRADE 12

1 Trimester – 2nd only

“What do I do now?” Moral decision-making is often charged with difficulty. This introduction to contemporary ethics employs a case method approach, investigating real problems in several areas, among them: bioethics, business, family, violence and nonviolence, sexual ethics, and technology. Plays, such as *Who’s Life Is It Anyway?*, *All My Sons*, *Good, ’Night Mother*, and *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* will be used in tandem with professional journal articles to analyze issues. Students will write reflection papers in which they assess opposing points of view while constructing a personal moral philosophy. This course will earn credit in either English or history/social studies.

ETHICS II (553) GRADE 12
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1 Trimester – 3rd only

See Ethics 1. The format for the course will remain the same yet the issues will differ. Ethics 1 is not a prerequisite. This course will earn credit in either English or history/social studies.